IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (canceled).

2. (currently amended)An input-parameter setup supporting method according to claim ~~1~~6, wherein when it is determined that the accumulative distribution for the input value of one parameter in a certain kind of input parameters is ~~isolatively larger than the accumulative distribution for the input values of the other parameters~~concentrated as one value, the input values of parameters in the certain kind of input parameters are fixed to the input value of the one parameter, and a display concerning the certain kind of input parameters is excluded from the display on the input interface.

3. (currently amended)An input-parameter setup supporting method according to claim ~~1~~6, wherein~~:~~ directories of files corresponding to the input values of parameters are constructed~~;~~, and

wherein a file for storing the design values, which are execution results of the simulation corresponding to the individual directories and the plural kinds of input parameters corresponding to the design values, is constructed under a hierarchical structure of the directories.

4. (currently amended)An input-parameter setup supporting method according to claim ~~1~~6, wherein other design values obtained as existing experimental results and other plural kinds of input parameters corresponding to the other design values are used in combination with the design values obtained through the simulations and the plural kinds of input parameters corresponding to the design values.

Claim 5 (canceled).

6. (new) An input-parameter setup supporting method in a simulation framework including a processing unit prepared to repeatedly execute a simulation to derive, at each execution time, from a value set of input-parameters, a design value of at least one item which indicates adequacy of said value set of input-parameters, said input-parameter setup supporting method comprising the steps of:

accumulating individual design values which are results of a plurality of past time executions of the simulation and individual value sets of input-parameters used in the past time executions of the simulation;

for each kind of input-parameter, deriving each accumulative value distribution, each reflecting selected value sets of the input-parameters corresponding only to design values which satisfy one or more design conditions, among design values obtained through the past time executions of the simulation;

extracting one or more reference values of each input-parameter from each accumulative value distribution;

displaying, for each kind of input-parameter, the extracted reference values and the number of extracted reference values; and

permitting a user to set a new value of each of the input-parameters for a next time execution of the simulation within a value range associated to displayed reference values of corresponding input-parameters.